



LIBYA



INTRODUCTION

Berbers have inhabited central north Africa since ancient times, but the region has been settled and ruled by Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and Vandals. The Italians supplanted the Ottoman Turks in the area around Tripoli in 1911, but relinquished their hold in 1943 when they were defeated in World War II. Libya then passed to UN administration and achieved independence in 1951.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Chairman, Presidential Council, Mohammed Al MENFI

Head of Government

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid DBEIBEH

Government Type

in transition

Capital

Tripoli (Tarabulus)

Legislature

unicameral House of Representatives (consists of 200 seats, including 32 reserved for women)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 1,759,540 sq km
Land: 1,759,540 sq km
Water: 0 sq km

Climate

Mediterranean along coast; dry, extreme desert interior

Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas, gypsum

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

upper middle-income, fossil fuel-based North African economy; 31% economic contraction due to COVID-19 and 2020 oil blockade; reduced government spending; central bank had to devalue currency; public wages are over 60% of expenditures

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$70.65 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$10,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - petroleum, petrochemicals, aluminum, iron and steel, food processing, textiles, handicrafts, cement

Agricultural products - potatoes, watermelons, tomatoes, onions, dates, milk, olives, wheat, poultry, vegetables

Exports \$18.38 billion (2017 est.)

crude petroleum, natural gas, gold, refined petroleum, scrap iron (2019)

partners: Italy 18%, China 16%, Germany 15%, Spain 15%, UAE 6%, France 6%, US 5% (2019)

Imports \$11.36 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, broadcasting equipment, cigarettes, jewelry (2019)

partners: China 16%, Turkey 14%, Italy 9%, UAE 9%, Egypt 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

7.0 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.76% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Berber and Arab 97%, other 3% (includes Egyptian, Greek, Indian, Italian, Maltese, Pakistani, Tunisian, and Turkish)

Language

Arabic (official), Italian, English (all widely understood in the major cities); Berber

Religion

Muslim (official; virtually all Sunni) 96.6%, Christian 2.7%, other 0.7% (2010 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 81% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 1.45% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

